

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6895

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LT, UK

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER DENOUNCES DR. OWEN'S STATEMENT ON

SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: A. STATE 75266, B. MASERU 04490N

1. BASED ON GOL'S READING OF "RAND DAILY MAIL" ARTICLE REPORTED
REF B, FOREIGN MINISTER C.D. MOLAPO DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING ATTACK
EVENING APRIL 5 OVER RADIO LESOTHO:

2. QTE WE HAVE NOTED THE STATEMENT OF THE BRITISH FOREIGN
SECRETARY, DR. DAVID OWEN AS REPORTED IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE OF THE
RAND DAILY MAIL. IF THE STATEMENT HAS BEEN TRULY AND FACTUALLY
REPORTED AND IF THE STATEMENT REFLECTS BRITIAN'S OFFICIAL POLICY
ON SOUTHERN AFRICA IT, INDEED, LEAVES US IN GREAT DOUBT REGARDING
THE EARNESTNESS AND VIGOR WITH WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
WISHES TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AFRICA, IN PARTICULAR THE
PROBLEM OF RHODESIA WHICH IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IS THE PRIMARY
RESPONSIBILITY OF GREAT BRITIAN.

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ONE WOULD CONCLUDE FROM DR. OWEN'S STATEMENT THAT HIS DEFEATIST
ATTITUDE WILL ONLY HELP TO EMOBOLDEN THOSE WHO OPPOSE PEACE
EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND WILL AS A RESULT UNDERMINE THE
VERY LOFTY PURPOSE WHICH HAS MOTIVATED HIS TOUR OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
AT THE END OF THIS WEEK.

WE ASK DR. OWENSTO REALISE THAT THE CAUSES FOR THE PROBLEMS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE MYTH OF RACIAL SUPERIORITY NOT IN HISTORY. THE AFRICAN MAJORITY IN SOUTH AFRICA WANTS CHANGES NOW, NOT IN 50 TO A 100 YEARS. IT WOULD BE DISAPPOINTING TO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE GREAT ESTEEM FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, IF WE WERE TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS BRITIAN'S CONSIDERED VIEW THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE TIME TO CONSOLIDATE APARTHEID. AFRICA CANNOT BE MADE TO ALLOW A BIGOTED MINORITY TO IMPOSE ITSELF ON THE MAJORITY AND DEPRIVE IT OF ITS BASIC RIGHTS. PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM AND THE METHOD BY WHICH IT WAS DISPOSED OF AFTER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS STAND OUT AS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION THAT NO PEOPLE CAN DOMINATE ANOTHER INDEFINITELY. IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE THE PORTUGUES STAYED TOO LONG AND LEFT TOO FAST AND WITHOUT MUCH CEREMONY. IN SOUTH AFRICA THE WHITES ARE THERE TO STAY BUT TO LIVE WITH THE AFRICANS IN COMPLETE EQUALITY AND HARMONY. THE AFRICANS WILL NOT SACRIFICE THEIR LEGITIMATE CLAIM FOR MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA ON THE ALTAR OF BRITISH ECONOMIC INTERESTS. THEIR CLAIM DERIGSS FROM THEIR FULL COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY OF MAN.

WE DEPLORE THE TENDENCY IN SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES TO MAKE REFERENCE TO INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY THE DENIAL OF (SIC) THE AFRICAN MAJORITY OF ITS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS. THE QUESTION IS NOT WHAT THE AFRICANS ARE LIKELY TO DO WITH THEIR RIGHTS WHEN THEY HAVE GOT THEM, BUT THAT THEY ARE DENIED THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHAT THEY WANT TO DO WITH THOSE RIGHTS IN THE LAND OF THEIR FOREFATHERS. THE NAIVETY MANIFESTED IN THIS KIND OF THINKING IS WITHOUT PARALLEL AS EVEN THE FORMER COLONIAL POWERS DID NOT PREDICATE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE ON THE USE OF RIGHT(S) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVEN BEFORE THOSE RIGHTS HAD BEEN GRANTED.

THE DANGERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE INCREASING EVERYDAY AND THE VACILLITATING POLICIES OF BRITIAN AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS HAVE CREATED A POLITICAL VACUUM WHICH WILL TEMPT OTHER POWERS TO FILL. SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS POLICIES POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY; AND TO DEFER SOLUTIONS TO THIS PRESSING ISSUE WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO A DELIBERATE BETRAYAL OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA. END QTE.

3. COMMENT: UN LIGHT OF ADVERSE REACTION OF GOL, POST WILL NOT RPT NOT MAKE REPRESENTATION IN SUPPORT OF OWEN MISSION. STOKES

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